[Translation]

Financial Provision for IRPP

2540. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Governement have decided to ask the various State Governments to ensure adequate financial provision in their respective states during the Ninth Plan to implement New Integrated Rural Power Programme;

(b) whether his Ministry is not satisfied with the achievements made by the States in the said programme; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has requested them to accelerate the pace of implementation of their programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Government is not implementing any programme called 'Integrated Rural Power Programme' in the States.

(b) and (c) In view of 'a' above does not arise.

Changing of Tracks for Superfast Trains

2541. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating any scheme to change the railway tracks for superfast trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No Sir, the existing track is fit for superfast trains.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Production in Bokaro Steel Plant

2542. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether continuous case unit of Melting shop No. 2 of Bokaro Steel Plant is ready for the production of Hot Rolled and Cold Rolled from the next month to meet the demand of International quality of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sophisticated technology has also been added in Hot Strip Mill of Bokaro Steel plant of Rs 2000 crore;

(d) if so, whether the said modernise action plans of BSP and other steel plants of SAIL are part of those modernisation plans which is implemented by International Cooperation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government till now to improve zero defect continuous cast slab, production of slab in slabbing Mill, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has undertaken stage I modernisation of its Bokaro Steel Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 1792 crores. Among others, Continuous Casting unit in SMS-II and Modification of Hot Strip Mill are the global packages. Continuous Casting Unit consists of two Nos. of Twin strand Continuous Casting Machine which is in advanced stage of completion. Slabbing Mill is not a part of BSL modernisation. The modernisation project is under implementation. Production from the modernised units will commence after the completion and stabilisation of on-going projects.

In addition to Bokaro, SAIL has undertaken modernisation of its plants at Durgapur and Rourkela. The financing of these projects is met by SAIL through internal resources and external borrowings and not by international aid.

Continuous cast slab production will be available from Continuous Casting Unit after its commissioning. The action taken by SAIL to improve zero defect slabs and production of slabs in Slabbing Mill are :

(i) regulation of soaking pit pressure;

(ii) improving availability of soaking pit & mill;

(iii) timely repairs and maintenance; and

(iv) scarfing of slabs.

Complaints against Indian Railway in Consumer Courts

2543. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending in the Consumer Courts in the Country district-wise and Zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to settle these cases outside the Courts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) A statement is attached.